

# Esquire



A BOOZE SNOB'S  
GUIDE TO  
CANNED COCKTAILS

FROM MONTANA  
TO MADRID:  
The Best New  
Hotels 2023

96 HOURS  
IN AN AMERICAN  
GHOST TOWN

The  
Dangerously  
Charming  
Pedro  
Pascal

From a ranch in Napa Valley to a wellness retreat in Punta Mita, Mexico,

here are the places where checking in could

CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD

the best

NEW

# hotels

2023

**YOU CAN ENCOUNTER INSPIRATION IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS** at a great hotel. It might be as simple as a stunning view. Standing on a balcony at the Maybourne Riviera, on the Côte d'Azur, I took in an expanse of sea and sky unlike that of any other place in the world. There's a reason that corner of the earth attracted painters such as Matisse and Bonnard. It's an image to conjure when the meditation app tells you to think of a calming place. A moment that becomes a little souvenir of the soul.

Experiences like this may be tiny, but they can stick. In the kitchen at the Four Seasons Naviva, in Punta Mita, Mexico, the chef casually taught me how

to prepare a salsa using a *molcajete*, a traditional pre-Hispanic mortar and pestle made from lava rock. It was so simple and revelatory and visceral—just charred tomatoes and jalapeños and salt—that I vowed to make it regularly with my salsa-loving children. New York's Nine Orchard, our very first Hotel of the Year, is a place that embraces the analog, so inspiration came to me in the form of the excellent wooden speakers in my room (made by Ojas). They reminded me that good sound matters.

*Experiential travel* has been a buzzword for quite some time. The cynic in me always thought of it as redundant. To travel is to experience, no? But the

more I travel, the more I realize that's not always the case. Sometimes we're just trying to get from point A to point B. It takes commitment to notice the world around you, to be open to the new. And the very best hotels have a way of putting you in that mode.

For this second edition of our Best New Hotels list, we traveled throughout North America and Europe to find places offering more than high thread counts and hot tubs. These are the spots that changed us in big and small ways. We hope you get to take some inspiration home from them, too. —Kevin Sintumuang

Blue skies, Monaco, and the Mediterranean as seen from a balcony at the Maybourne Riviera, in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France.

Embrace the Mud Bath

## DR. WILKINSON'S BACKYARD RESORT & MINERAL SPRINGS

CALISTOGA, CALIFORNIA

● Before the starchitect-designed wineries arrived, small towns in Napa Valley were funky, weird little enclaves home to offbeat wellness centers. The weirdest might have been Dr. Wilkinson's Hot Springs and Mud Baths, opened in 1952 by chiropractor (and onetime Calistoga mayor) John "Doc" Wilkinson, featuring mud baths (naturally) and mineral dips. The hotel and spa ran for almost seven decades before the pandemic nearly shuttered them. Then, after a lengthy renovation, the resort re-opened and pulled off something of a magic trick: The rooms and spa have been modernized, but the original funky spirit remains intact. Dr. Wilkinson would no doubt approve.

**Rooms from \$360**—Danny Dumas



One of the mineral pools.

E

— OLD SCHOOL, NEW SCHOOL IN N.Y.C.



The art-filled lobby at the Hotel Chelsea.

American Bohemia's Landmark Is Back

## THE HOTEL CHELSEA

● You can't talk about the Hotel Chelsea without checking off the names of its famous tenants and guests. The building, finished in 1884, was conceived as a kind of commune for musicians and novelists and has had a bohemian artistic energy since then. Mark Twain, Stanley Kubrick, Patti Smith, Andy Warhol, and Jimi Hendrix are just some of the notable folks who have graced this Queen Anne-style building over the past century. Today it might lack a raucous clientele, but that's all for a better night's sleep. Expect laid-back service, marble-and-brass bathrooms, animal-print furniture. From the pitch-perfect El Quijote, a Spanish restaurant that opened in 1930, to the iconic stained-glass windows and wrought-iron balconies, checking into the Chelsea feels like entering a time warp. **Rooms from approx. \$300**—K. S.

NoMa Gets Its First Destination Hotel

## THE MORROW HOTEL

● The Morrow marks a new level of luxury for hotels in NoMa, an area that's been on the verge since the nearby Union Market was revitalized into a thriving food hall, becoming a district in and of itself, spawning shops and even another market, La Cosecha, which celebrates Latin American culture. The hotel adds to the scene with several stunning venues from chef Nicholas Stefanelli: Le Clou, a modern French brasserie; the cocktail lounge Vesper; and a rooftop bar, Upstairs at the Morrow. The property strikes the balance of warm yet minimal and unfussy. Exactly what the neighborhood deserves. **Rooms from \$390**—K. S.



The soothing, curvaceous lobby of the Morrow in D.C.'s NoMa.

The High-Rise Hotel to Beat

## THE RITZ-CARLTON NOMAD

● Lying in a cloudlike king bed, facing downtown, with One World Trade Center glimmering in the distance, I watched the sunset, thirty-four stories in the sky, and thought, *What a thing to experience in a city where you thought you'd seen it all.* As a gleaming, fifty-story-tall glass tower, the Ritz-Carlton New York NoMad offers that Ritz-Carlton tranquility, but the bars and restaurants here have made it an unlikely nightlife destination in a decidedly non-touristy hood. You'll have a sanctuary in your room with a tub—rare in N.Y.C.—but there's also a buzzy lobby bar and the José Andrés rooftop lounge Nubeluz. It's an uncommon New York hotel combo, where you can be serene or all-out energetic. **Rooms from \$1,000**—K. S.



The lobby bar at the Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad.

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